

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1991-66-C - ORDER NO. 2004-571
NOVEMBER 16, 2004

IN RE: Application of USLD Communications, Inc.) ORDER CANCELLING
f/k/a U. S. Long Distance, Inc. for a Certificate) CERTIFICATE
of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide)
Intrastate Operator Assisted Resold)
Telecommunications Services in South)
Carolina.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Application of USLD Communications, Inc. f/k/a U. S. Long Distance, Inc. (“USLD” or the “Company”) to cancel its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“Certificate”) to provide intrastate operator assisted resold telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina. USLD additionally requests withdrawal of the Company’s operator services tariff. A review of the docket file reveals that USLD’s authority to operate as a reseller of intrastate operator assisted telecommunications services in South Carolina was granted by Order No. 91-365, dated May 3, 1991, in the Company’s former name of U.S. Long Distance, Inc. We note that the record of this Commission does not reflect approval of the aforementioned name change, but we find it inconsequential since the Company presently seeks to cancel its Certificate of authority in South Carolina.

By Application dated November 2, 2004, USLD seeks approval of the Company’s voluntary abandonment of its telecommunications services in South Carolina and seeks

approval of the withdrawal of its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and the Company's tariff which are on file with this Commission. USLD states that when the Company originally began offering service, its service offerings and business plans were broad in scope in order to be able to remain flexible in an ever-changing telecommunications marketplace. However, over time, according to USLD, the Company merged with LCI International, Inc. and later merged into Qwest Communications Corporation ("QCC").¹ Since the mergers, USLD states that it focused its operations on provisioning operator services. USLD states that the Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qwest Communications International, Inc. ("Qwest") and that Qwest has decided that USLD should exit the marketplace nationwide after Qwest's examination of the developments in the market for the services which USLD provides.

According to USLD, Qwest has achieved economies by offering services, namely operator services in the present case, through only one affiliate. USLD states that the public interest of consumers in South Carolina will be served by having only QCC offer operator services in South Carolina which will allow QCC to enhance its ability to provide high quality, competitive offerings, and thus service the marketplace in South Carolina more effectively. Lastly, USLD states that the Company presently has no customers in South Carolina; therefore, notification to customers is not necessary.

USLD respectfully requests approval of the Commission to voluntarily abandon service and withdraw the Company's Certificate and tariff.

¹ QCC is certificated in South Carolina to operate as a reseller of interexchange services pursuant to Commission Order Nos. 95-961 and 95-1761 in Docket No. 94-718-C and to provide local exchange services on a resale and facilities basis pursuant to Commission Order Nos. 2000-0260 and 2004-327 in Docket No. 1999-468-C.

As USLD is no longer providing the services for which its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was granted, the Commission finds and concludes that USLD's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide intrastate operator assisted resold telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina should be cancelled and the Company's tariff should be withdrawn.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide intrastate operator assisted resold telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina authorized by Order No. 91-365, dated May 3, 1991, issued in the instant docket to USLD Communications, Inc. f/k/a U.S. Long Distance, Inc. is hereby cancelled.

2. The tariff of USLD Communications, Inc. f/k/a U.S. Long Distance, Inc. is hereby withdrawn.

3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)